

ITALY AND GERMANY FINALLY ON EVE OF DECLARATION OF WAR

RUPTURE of diplomatic relations does not necessarily mean war. It is necessary to emphasize this point in view of the misapprehension which appears to exist as to the precise meaning and consequences of the adoption of any such course as this by the United States with regard to Austria-Hungary.

The latter abandoned all diplomatic and consular intercourse with Mexico, following the execution of Maximilian, an Austrian Archduke, at Queretaro in 1867, and did not resume it until more than thirty years afterwards. But that did not prevent subjects of the Dual Empire from pursuing their vocations in Mexico, where their interests were cared for by the representatives of other European nations, while in the same way, Mexicans suffered no inconvenience while sojourning temporarily or residing permanently in the dominions of Francis Joseph, save that they were barred from court entertainments and more or less boycotted by the great world at Vienna and at Budapest.

If the Austrian monarch broke off diplomatic and consular intercourse with Mexico it was in token of his grief and indignation at the fate meted out to his brother Maximilian on the plains of Queretaro. If the United States inaugurates a rupture of diplomatic and consular relations with Austria-Hungary it will be as a manifestation of her anger at the refusal of the Viennese Government to accord any redress or satisfaction for the American lives lost through the sinking of the Italian steamship Ancona by an Austrian submarine without warning.

Just at the present moment we have before our eyes an extraordinary illustration of a case of interruption of diplomatic and consular relations without war. All diplomatic intercourse between Germany and Italy has been suspended since the day when the Government of Victor Emmanuel decided to throw in its lot with the Allies and embark upon war against Austria. But, although relatively few people seem to be aware of the fact, no state of war as yet exists between Germany and Italy. This is due to the fact that Italy has pledged herself by treaty not to consent to peace, even in conjunction with France, Great Britain, Russia and Japan, thus arraying the nation definitely on the side of the Entente Powers; while on the other hand Germany is proceeding far and wide her intention, in the event of a victorious peace, to insist upon a restoration to the Papacy of its former temporal possessions, including the Eternal City—this with the object of winning the favor and the moral support of Roman Catholics in all parts of the world.

Italy offers and pledges to come from Emperor William, who prides himself on being the champion and defender of Lutheranism, and who is the ruler of the greatest of all Lutheran nations.

How careful the Kaiser is to avoid anything that can be construed as actual warfare, on his part, against Italy, is demonstrated by his refusal to despatch German troops to assist the Austrians in defending the sadly threatened Gorizia, the Carso Plateau and the whole Isonzo line against the terrible onslaughts of the Italians under Gen. Cadorna. That Gorizia is on the point of being taken—it may have fallen ere this letter appears in print—and the consequence that the road will virtually be open to Trieste, and that the Italians would even be able to turn the Tolmin and Predil group of fortresses in a march northward to Vienna, seems to leave Emperor William undisturbed, and he persists in turning a deaf ear to the Austrian clamor for German aid.

So indifferent does he show himself to Italy's penetration of Austria's frontier fortress barrier that he is compelling the officers of his army who volunteer for service under the Austrian flag against Italy to resign, at any rate temporarily, the commissions which they hold from him. Any Germans in arms against Italy are fighting not under the German but under the Austrian flag, not in Germany but in Austrian uniforms and as subjects of Emperor Francis Joseph, instead of as lieges of Kaiser Wilhelm.

Reports differ as to the number of Germans thus enrolled in the ranks of the Austrian troops now resisting Italian invasion. But it is believed that there are relatively few, and this impression seems to be borne out by the bitterness displayed, both at Vienna and at Budapest, against Berlin for refusing to lend the urgently needed assistance along the Isonzo line of defence.

It is said that one of the reasons why are causing Emperor William to adopt this attitude toward Italy is the fact that Germany still has vast commercial and industrial interests in Italy and has an immense amount of capital invested in all sorts of enterprises in the Peninsula. Moreover, every Italian port is crowded to the utmost with German shipping, no less than seventy large liners belonging to the Hamburg and Bremen companies having lain at Genoa since the beginning of the war, when they sought refuge there from English and French cruisers.

All this shipping, which has so enormously increased in value by reason of the war, would be at once seized by the Italian Government in the event of the inauguration of any actual war with Germany, and the Italian authorities would likewise at once proceed to sequester all German capital and German property in the Peninsula, in Sicily and in Sardinia. Moreover, Italians would be relieved of some of their financial obligations to Germans, and the material loss to Emperor William would be immense. Emperor William wishes to avert all this as long as possible, and is even willing on this account to sacrifice the good will and the confidence of his Austrian and Hungarian allies.

His attitude is indeed the source of little resentment and bitterness at Vienna and at Budapest, and in the Magyar metropolis especially the policy of contracting a separate peace with the Powers of the Entente, including Italy, on the best possible terms and without regard to Germany, is being openly discussed, even in the newspapers, on the ground that Germany has refused to make Austria's quarrel with Italy hers and has absolutely declined to go to war with Italy in behalf of her ally at Vienna. It is argued at Budapest, and only in

Present State Merely a Rupture of Diplomatic Relations Which Does Not Always Mean Hostilities--- To Rome's Interest to Avoid Actual Fighting



Copyright, International Film Service. An Italian priest blessing a heavy cannon which is loaded ready for firing.

a little less degree at Vienna, that if Germany has the right to remain at peace with Italy, independently of Austria, then the Dual Empire is also entitled to negotiate an entirely independent peace of her own with Italy and the latter's allies.

If Italy has thus far refrained from following up her rupture of diplomatic relations with Germany by the inauguration of active hostilities against that Power it is because there is no point where the frontiers of the two countries touch one another, and that it is felt at Rome that the longer the inevitable conflict with the Teuton Empire is averted the easier it will be for Gen. Cadorna to carry to a successful issue his campaign along the Isonzo line against the Austrians. If Emperor William were to despatch several German army corps to assist the Austrians in the defence of Gorizia, of Trieste and of the road to Vienna the operations of Gen. Cadorna would prove much more costly both as regards life and treasure.

It is therefore not to the interest of the Administration at Rome to precipitate matters against Germany. This, however, is not generally understood by the public in Italy, where much popular pressure is being brought to bear upon the Cabinet to "clarify the situation" with regard to Germany. Indeed, the Premier and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sidney Sonnino, are being called upon by the press of all shades of political opinion to make a frank declaration of the attitude of the kingdom toward Germany, and the Milan *Secolo*, which has perhaps the largest circulation of any daily in the Peninsula, practically

determination that is prompting Great Britain, France and Russia to the resolve to continue the struggle to the bitterest end, namely, the determination to relieve Europe, and indeed the whole world, from the nightmare of Teuton militarism and of the appalling and ruinous burden of armaments that it has imposed upon all other nations, in the interest of self-defence.

As long as Germany's policy of military supremacy and terrorism, for the purpose of political and economic domination of the universe, continues there can be no abandonment on the part of other nations of extravagant and gigantic armaments or relief from the crushing burden of taxation that they impose upon the people of all countries, even on this side of the Atlantic, as, for instance, the United States. That is what the statesmen of the Powers of the Entente mean when they proclaim that in seeking to crush, not the German people, but the military terrorism of Germany, that they are fighting the battles of the United States and of all other neutral nations.

That actual warfare between Italy and Germany can be much longer delayed seems impossible, in view of the fact that an Italian army corps of some 200,000 men is being landed on the eastern shores of the Adriatic, in order to cooperate with the Anglo-French forces against the German, Austrian and Bulgarian forces in Serbia. These forces are led by German officers, with the Prussian Field Marshal von Mackensen in supreme command, and comprise almost as many German regiments as Austrian.

It cannot be long before the Italians entering Serbia from the Adriatic coast come into touch with the German and Austrian troops that have overrun the unfortunate King Peter's dominions, and at the first clash the rupture of diplomatic relations between Berlin and Rome will have developed into actual war between Germany and Italy. That is a development which it seems to me has not been sufficiently taken into consideration by the students in this country of the great conflict now in progress, and yet which cannot fail to endanger gravely the situation of the so-called Central Powers. For, in the first place, Germany's trade, industry and general economic condition, which have suffered so terribly from the strangulation to which they have been subjected for the past sixteen months by the British blockade, will suffer another blow of tremendous importance by the sequestration of all German capital, the seizure of all of her industrial, commercial and financial enterprises in Italy, and the confiscation of all her shipping in Italian ports.

Then, too, it is difficult to see how Germany can maintain an open road through Serbia and Bulgaria, with her begun invading Bulgaria, where the Russians, who have last week



Baron Sonnino, Italy's Foreign Minister.

CLARA TICE'S IMPRESSIONS OF THE ST. MARK'S PAGEANT

Olin Howland in the Egyptian "Feast of Eternity." Mrs. Henry Hollister Pease, Lucian Smith and Mrs. Oscar Coolican. John Murray Anderson in "The Varsovianna."

Mrs. Selden Bacon and Emlen Littell in the "Minuet de la Cour." John Murray Anderson, who wrote and staged "Terpsichore."

Francis Bangs in an Egyptian religious dance. Frank Holister in an Egyptian religious dance.

rise against the hated rule of King Ferdinand, with a large Italian army invading Serbia from the Adriatic coast, and with a daily growing Anglo-French army operating northward into Serbia and Bulgaria from Salonica. To deal with this combination of forces arrayed against him Emperor William will be obliged to place at the disposal of Field Marshal Mackensen a far larger force than he can spare from his Russian or French front. Indeed, it is said that his Generals in France, in Flanders, and especially in Russia, are clamoring for large reinforcements, as indispensable to the defence of their position. Marshal von Hindenburg having suffered heavy reverses in Russia during the past month.

With these prospects in view in the Balkans, it would seem idle to attach undue importance to the widely heralded drive upon the Suez Canal by a German-Turkish force under Field Marshal von der Goltz, or an invasion of India via Mesopotamia and the Persian Gulf.

ODDEST OF TRADING CENTRES.

THERE is a financial centre in Brooklyn that is unlike anything else in New York city. Jay street bisects it between Myrtle avenue and Fulton street. In this financial district are half a dozen or more brokers in trading stamps, coupons, wrappers, labels and whatever else manufacturers or tradesmen give free to buyers at retail.

The nucleus of this centre was a place kept by a man who styled himself the coupon king. Evidently the business proved profitable, for several other similar places are running now, some of them more pretentious in appearance than the original and all of them are in locations where the rent is considerable.

These traders buy and sell everything in the coupon, trading stamp, wrapper and label line. The most interesting part of their business is that which may be termed the exchange end. The brokers in these gratitudes of trade can tell offhand the value of a given number of a certain coupon in terms of any soap wrapper that may be mentioned, the same as a broker in New York's great financial district can quickly name the equivalent in value of bonds of any railroad or other corporation that are on the market. When a customer wants to convert a number of canned goods labels into trading stamps the coupon dealer will make the exchange, taking labels as his commission.

The clients of these traders are mostly frugal housewives who have acquired the habit of saving trading stamps and so forth. Maybe one of them has her eye on a lamp stand in a premium store of a trading stamp concern. She has nearly enough stamps to pay for the stand, but is afraid some one else will get it if she doesn't hurry up. So she charges her husband to take and save coupons wherever they are offered to him, begs labels and wrappers from her wome acquaintances and when she has a considerable number of these she goes to the coupon broker and converts them into trading stamps of the concern that has the lamp stand on view. If she is still a few stamps short of the required number she may decide to buy at the clearing house enough to complete it and get the coveted article of furniture.

The money value of any single stamp, label or other of these gratuitous securities is so small that the collage of even China would not furnish a unit of measurement, yet dealing in these obligations attracts many who are and is profitable.

MEMBERS of New York's exclusive set recently took part in a one week dance pageant entitled "Terpsichore" at the Grand Central Palace for the benefit of St. Mark's Hospital. The pageant was written and staged by John Murray Anderson and told the history of the dance from the stone age down to modern times. Not only the costumes worn but the musical instruments used were all authentic copies of originals loaned by collectors of the period represented. Several thousand dollars were realized from this pageant dance and so great has been its success that it will be repeated

early in March by the same dancers under the direction of Mrs. R. W. Hawkesworth, as Mr. Anderson will leave next week for Denver to put the same pageant on there for a children's hospital.

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